

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5048

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide aid to counties for establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans' cemeteries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. DELGADO (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. MAST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide aid to counties for establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans' cemeteries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Fairness for Local Vet-
5 eran Cemeteries Act".

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AID TO**
2 **COUNTIES FOR ESTABLISHMENT, EXPAN-**
3 **SION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF VETERANS'**
4 **CEMETERIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2408 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “or county” after “State” each
8 place it appears; and

9 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
10 following new paragraph:

11 “(3)(A) The Secretary may make a grant to a county
12 under this section only if—

13 “(i)(I) the State in which the county is located
14 does not have a veterans’ cemetery owned by the
15 State; or

16 “(II) the State in which the county is located
17 did not apply for a grant during the previous year;
18 and

19 “(ii) the county demonstrates in the application
20 under paragraph (2), to the satisfaction of the Sec-
21 retary, that the county has the resources necessary
22 to operate and maintain the veterans’ cemetery
23 owned by the county.

24 “(B) If a county and the State in which the county
25 is located both apply for a grant under this section for

1 the same year, the Secretary shall give priority to the
2 State.

3 “(C) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to
4 carry out this paragraph.”.

5 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such
7 section is amended by inserting “**and counties**”
8 after “**States**”.

9 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
10 at the beginning of chapter 24 of such title is
11 amended by striking the item relating to section
12 2408 and inserting the following new item:

“2408. Aid to States and counties for establishment, expansion, and improve-
ment of veterans’ cemeteries.”.

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